

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2 line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Within the various types of specialized lancet devices, one variety ~~are~~ is typically configured for multiple and/or repeated uses, while another category is particularly configured for single use, after which the entire device is disposed of. Looking in particular to the single use, disposable lancet devices, such devices typically include a housing which contains and directs or drives a piercing tip into the patient's skin, and which is disposed of along with the used lancet. Naturally, so as to make such disposable devices cost effective for frequent use, such devices tend to be rather simplistic in nature providing only a sufficient mechanism for firing, and not overly complicating the design so as to minimize that cost.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4 line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

-- As a result, it would also be beneficial to provide a lancet device, which whether single use and/or multiple use, could be very simplistic and effective to employee, not requiring a series of often complex activities to be performeded

in order to prepare the lancet for use and in order to actually utilize the lancet. Still, however, such a device should not ~~comprise~~ compromise safety in the prevention of inadvertent use and/or re-use in exchange for the simplistic use, but rather should effectively coordinate all such beneficial characteristics. It would also be beneficial such a device could be ~~effectively~~ and cost effectively manufactured so as to make it available and affordable to a large variety of users, including home users.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5 line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The lancet device of the present invention also includes a cocking seat. The cocking seat is structured to engage the lancet and retain the lancet against the force of the biasing assembly so as to establish a potential energy of the biasing assembly. In the preferred embodiment, the user's finger and/or another body part which is to be pierced, engages the cocking seat and thereby pushes the cocking seat and the lancet until it ultimately engages a release assembly that extends into the housing. In alternate embodiments, the cocking seat is integrally or separately disposed relative to the housing to

retain the lancet against the force of a biasing element until released by ~~an actuatable~~ actuating a release assembly. The release assembly is structured to disengage the lancet from the cocking seat such that the potential energy of the biasing assembly drives the piercing tip of the lancet at least temporarily into its piercing orientation. As a result, in one illustrated embodiment, as the cocking seat moves the lancet, simultaneously cocking it and moving it into its engaging relation with the release element for effective actuation and firing thereof to pierce the skin of the patient, while in another embodiment, the lancet device is "pre-cocked".

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11 line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Looking further to the single use pivot 46, this may be defined by a reduce thickness region in the segment that ultimately defines the engagement element. The pivot 46 may be seen to define a breakable hinge, and is configured such that when the release element 56 engages the engagement element 45, the engagement element 45 pivots on said pivot point and cannot generally return to its pre-pivoted orientation. As a result, even if re-positioning of the engagement element relative to the

cocking seat was attempted, the necessary engagement could not be achieved as the reduced thickness portion snaps and or deforms to prevent such re-positioning. A single use of the device is therefore ensured.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11 line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

-- As previously indicated, the cocking seat 30, and preferably the exterior end 36 of the cocking seat 30 may be configured to engage a patient, at least in a general vicinity of a portion to be pierced. Furthermore, in the preferred, illustrated embodiment, the opening 37 at the end 36 of the cocking seat 30 is preferably aligned with a specific location to be pierced, such as on a tip of the finger. That portion of the body, such as the finger, is thereby utilized as an abutment on one of the lancet device 10, while a corresponding support element, such as another finger or a thumb of the patient, or a hand of a medical practitioner or other user, or a solid surface, engages the housing 20 of the lancet device 10. In this regard, as either or both the body section and the support element are moved towards one another such that a spacing therebetween is reduced, the moveable cocking seat 30 moves

further into the housing 20 until ultimately the engagement element 45 engages and is released by the released element 56. Once this release is achieved, the lancet 40 moves relative to the cocking seat 30 passing, therethrough such that its piercing tip 42 protrudes from the open end 37 of the cocking seat 30 and piercingly engages the patient's skin. Therefore, in the embodiments of Figures 1 and 2 the cocking movement directly results in firing of the lancet 40, requiring only a single, fluid movement to effectively utilize the present lancet device 10. Looking in further detailed to the previous description, it is understood that the effective firing can be achieved either by moving the portion of the patient, such as their finger inward against a fixed support element, by moving a support element towards a fixed portion of the body to be pierced and/or by compressing both towards one another.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13 line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Turning to the embodiment of Figures 3 and 6, it is also understood, that for further safety reasons, if desired, the release element 56 may not necessarily be positioned at all times in an appropriate location to effectively release the

lancet 40 from its engagement with the cocking seat 30. For example, in the embodiment of Figure 3 a stopper 25 is positioned such that movement of the cocking seat 30 and therefore the lancet 40 towards the rear end 55' will not result in a sufficient travel distance such that the engagement element 45 is released by the release element 56. Similarly, in the embodiment of Figure 6 wherein the cocking seat forms part of the housing and the lancet is re pre-cocked, but does not automatically fire. Rather, in these illustrated embodiments actuation of the rear end 55' inwardly is required so as to effectively move the release element 56 into a position where it may engage the engagement element 45 and provide for appropriate release of the lancet 40 from the cocking seat 30. Also in the embodiment of Figure 3 a spring or a stopper may be provided so as to also restrict movement of the actuation element 55', as it is ultimately preferred that actuation thereof be utilized only so as to effectively position the release element 56 in a position and orientation such that the previous or subsequent movement of the cocking seat 30 and/or the housing 20 in the manner previously described for cocking and firing results in the releasing engagement between the release element 56 and the engagement element 45. Also on such embodiments ~~is~~ it should be

recognized that a variety of different actuation assemblies 55' may be effectively provided so as to position the release element 56 in its appropriate position to release the lancet. For example, a side, spring loaded button and/or resilient button may be provided such that the release element 56 is retained at least partially out of the housing and/or out of engaging relation with the engagement element 45 until it is actuated and moved at least partially into the interior of the housing 20. Furthermore, as evidenced by the embodiment of Figure 6, additional structure may be provided so as to cock the lancet device, or it may be sold pre-cocked with the cocking seat 30 may be pre-positioned in an appropriate position to allow actuation of the release element 56 to effectively disengage the engagement element 45 from the cocking seat 30. As mentioned, in such an embodiment, the cocking seat 30 can be retained in position relative to the housing or can merely be integrally formed with and/or secured to the housing 20, thus eliminating the need to push in the cocking seat 30 and allowing for mere actuation of the release element 56 to result in disengagement of a properly positioned engagement element.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14 line 25

with the following amended paragraph:

-- Looking again to Figure 1, further features that may be provided with the present invention may be the inclusion of a cover element 43 which is structured to protect and shield the piercing tip 42 of the lancet 40 prior to use. The cover element 43 preferably extends out from the open interior 31 of the cocking seat 30, out through the opening 37 so as to be effectively grasped by a user for removal thereof when preparing the lancet device 10 for use. Alternately, an exterior cover that covers the cocking seat and/or surrounds the piercing tip may also be provided. It is also noted, that the cocking seat 30 is configured such that even when the cover element 43 is removed, the piercing end 42 is protected and/or shielded within the interior 31 thereof unless and until use. Indeed, it is only when the driving force of the biasing assembly 50 urges the lancet's movement relative to the cocking seat 30 that the piercing tip 42 temporarily passes through the opening 37. Still, as a final safety measure, although a single biasing assembly 50 may be sufficient so as to both drive the lancet 40 into its piercing orientation and so as to generally retract back into its protective shielding within the cocking seat 30, in some embodiments a secondary biasing assembly 52 may also be



positioned and interposed between the lancet 40 and the cocking seat 30, the secondary biasing assembly 52 being structured and disposed so as to not hinder movement of the piercing tip 42 into its piercing orientation, but so as to effectively retract the lancet 40 back into its protective containment within the cocking seat 30. Moreover, that retraction should not be sufficient so as to return the lancet 40 into its engagement relation with the cocking seat 30 for unitary movement therebetween.